



RICHARD F. ALLEN
COMMISSIONER

April Pre Release and Reentry Update

Pre-Release and Reentry Update

SOCIAL SECURITY IMPROVES DISABILITY PROGRAM WITH COMPASSIONATE ALLOWANCES

Social Security is making the disability process much faster for people with rare diseases and cancers.



That's because Social Security has begun the first phase of its Compassionate Allowances initiative -- a way to expedite the processing of disability claims for applicants whose medical conditions are so severe that their conditions obviously meet Social Security's standards.

The improvements to the disability determination process are the result of a series of public hearings where Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, received information from leading experts on cancers and rare diseases. Social Security also has been receiving technical assistance from the National Institutes of Health to ensure that the compassionate allowance initiative is based on sound, up-to-date medical science.

"Getting benefits quickly to people with the most severe medical conditions is both the right and the compassionate thing to do," Commissioner Astrue said. "This initiative will allow us to make decisions on these cases in a matter of days, rather than months or years."

Social Security is launching this expedited decision process with a total of 50 conditions.

Please contact your local Social Security Office to learn more about these 50 conditions.

*By Kylie' McKinney
Social Security Administration
Public Affairs Specialist
Montgomery, AL*

The Dannon Project

The Dannon Project (TDP) is a non profit organization that is committed to improving the physical, mental, and social well-being of non violent previously incarcerated persons and their families, as well as their economic health while promoting the safety of Birmingham communities.

The organization has been successfully providing reentry services to non violent ex offenders since 2001. TDP envisions a community where previously incarcerated persons are provided second chances and opportunities to have the tools and support needed to become law-abiding, productive citizens, and become able to participate in building healthy and safe communities. Our goal for effective prisoner reentry services is to interrupt the cycle of recidivism and help people successfully return to and remain in communities in Birmingham/Jefferson County, Alabama.

Most recently, The Dannon Projects ACER Program (A Chance for Everyone Returning), was awarded a grant from the Department of Labor Employment Training Association to help ex-prisoners in Jefferson County gain job training and other skills to re-enter society. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao said in a statement, "these funds will advance local faith-based and community organization efforts to equip 100 ex-prisoners with basic job skills, counseling opportunities to earn an honest living in the communities in which they live." **Project A.C.E.R.** offers opportunities for individuals who have been in conflict with the law to transform their lives through innovative and effective training and intensive case management.

UNDER THE DOL ETA PRI, 100 OFFENDERS WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ♦ Obtaining Personal Identification | Mental Health Screening |
| ♦ Coordination of Housing | Counseling and Mentors |
| ♦ Education, GED and Job Training | Financial Literacy Training |
| ♦ Life Skills Training and Work Support | Employee Assistance |
| ♦ Access to Health Care and Medication | Substance Abuse Treatment |

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT A.C.E.R.:

- ♦ Male and Female
- ♦ 18 years of age or older by release date
- ♦ Non violent offense
- ♦ No conviction for sexual offense
- ♦ Sentenced in the Adult Criminal Justice System Within 180 days of release

HOW TO APPLY:

- ♦ Complete a Referral and Application Package
- ♦ Fax both Referral and Application with required attachments to 205-202-4071 or mail to office address below; OR
- ♦ Email completed application to acer@dannonproject.org

OFFICE INFORMATION

1600 20th Street South, Suite B
Birmingham, AL 35205

Office: (205) 202-4072
Fax: (205) 202-4071
Email: acer@dannonproject.org
www.dannonproject.org



Happy Easter!



Decatur CBF/CWC Re-Entry Program Making a positive impact on Inmate lives



Decatur CBF implemented the Re-Entry Program for our inmate population in September 2008. Initially inmates were reluctant to participate in the program; some opted to sign letters of refusal. However, after the inmate participants went back into the dormitories and spread the word that this program was beneficial in providing information about re-entry services, the inmates that were once skeptical began coming to my office inquiring about eligibility. Inmates wanted to make certain that their name was on the Re-Entry Program participant roster.

The whole inmate perspective about The Re-Entry Program has changed for the better. Inmates are excited to learn about the valuable resources available upon release from incarceration. Inmates are appreciative of the information concerning community resources and the county referral forms provided in class. The Re-Entry Program has been a motivational tool for inmates in knowing that once they leave the correctional setting that their communities are willing to engage the inmates and provide needed assistance with the essentials of life: food, clothing, shelter and medical services. Inmates also appreciate information concerning where they can go to continue with Alcohol Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous programs. The atmosphere in the class setting is that of a group of inmates that want the information being presented.

We have successfully completed a total of six (6) monthly programs accumulating One Hundred Thirty Nine (139) successful completions. The success of our program would not be possible without the professional Correctional Staff at Decatur CBF; especially the following staff members that are directly involved in presenting the information and responsible for the operations of The Re-Entry Program: Treatment Supervisor Bo Cummings Correctional Officer Geneice Crayton, Correctional Officer Randall Dyson and Correctional Officer Darrell Hooks. Warden Bettinna Carter, Lieutenant Willie Siler and Classification Director, Ms. Olson have been instrumental in managing the program.

Cummings, SAP Counselor/Reentry Designee



Draper Reentry Computer Information Course preparing for a Successful Reentry

ADVANCE REACH FURTHER PROGRESS THINK ON

Course Coordinators: Dr. Thompkins, Chaplain Whiting and Nick Rose

It is the vision of the Draper Reentry Program to help equip men with the necessary information that is needed to enhance their awareness of the mental and spiritual changes that come along with a healthy, successful transition into society. Along with this vision is the responsibility to introduce the participants of this program to the advancing technological world. With that said, let me introduce you to "Techno Bytes."

Techno Bytes, is a over-viewing course of computers and their operations. The purpose of this course is to inform all reentry participants of the various operations of computers and to give a crash course that will help them, if applied to be more competitive in the work force as well as equipped to advance in the daily aspects of our growing technical world. The course aspects are broken down into three tiers.

Tier I: Basic Introduction (What is a computer and what does it do?)

Tier II: "Breaking it Down" (Learning the basic functions of computers and to set a foundation of the different types of Operating Systems and introduce inmates to different programs such as Microsoft Word, Excel and Publisher.(and

Tier III: "Hands On" (Each participant has the opportunity to log on to a computer and experience first hand what they have just learned in Tiers I and II.

It is understood that this course will not make anyone an expert, but it will give each person an opportunity to really apply themselves in an area that are all too often overlooked.



APRIL 2009 Pre Release Dates

Elmore	23-30
Donaldson	13-17; 20-24
Fountain	13-24
J.O. Davis	13-24
Staton	15-17; 20-21
Decatur	17-18; 24-25
Draper	16-30
Bibb County	15-17; 20-21
Red Eagle	20-24
Limestone	20-23
Tutwiler	20-24
Kilby	6-9
Mobile WR	14-16
Easterling	6-17
Elba	24
Hamilton	5-10
Hamilton A&I	14-24
Loxley	8, 13-16, 20-22
Ventress	6-8
Atmore	13-16, 20-23
Holman	Quarterly
Alex City	7
Montgomery Community Based Institution	6-9
Childersburg	13-17
Birmingham WR	7
Camden	Quarterly
Bullock County	Quarterly
St. Clair	13-17
Cattle Ranch	
Frank Lee	14-15

Reentry Reflections from Fountain and Bullock County

WHAT I LEARNED IN THE PROGRAM

"That there is help for people after release"..... Kendall P.

"How to fill out applications for jobs".... Terrance R.

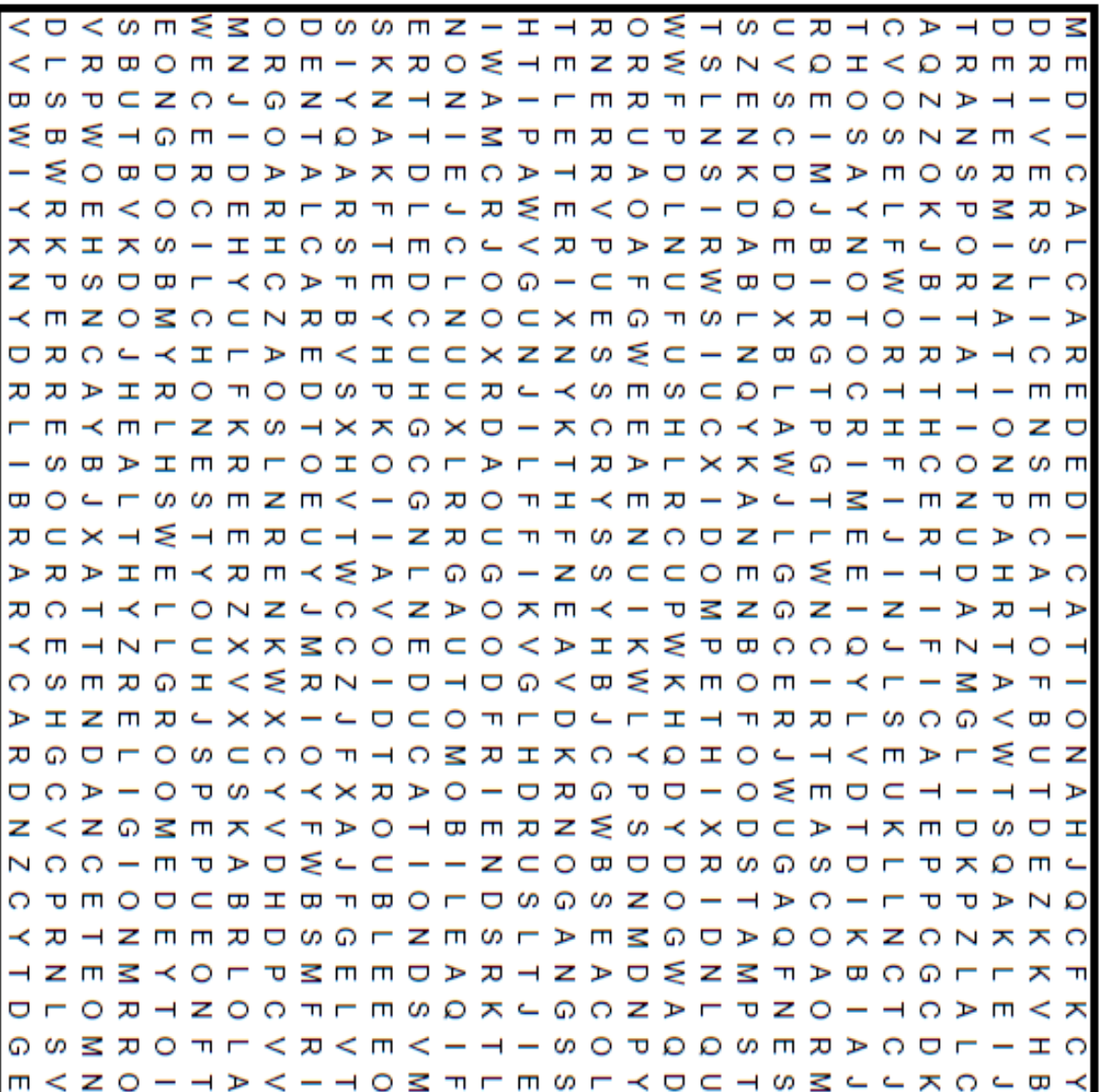
"How not to contract AIDS".... James W.

"I've been given building blocks for a productive life pointed in directions of people and agencies that can help me put a life together that will stay together".....Joe D.



First Stop-Second Chance—Word Puzzle

www.firststopsecondchance.org



New Life Word List

Action Plan	ID
Alcohol Rehab	Interviews
Applications	Job
Attendance	Lawyer
Attitude	Library Card
Automobile	Love
Avoid Drugs	Meals
Avoid Trouble	Medical Care
Birth Certificate	Mentor
Check In	Money
Childcare	Network
Clothing	No Gangs
Counseling	Paycheck
Dedication	Positive
Dental Care	Reconcile
Determination	Recovery
Driver's license	Reentry
Drug Rehab	Religion
Education	Resources
Employment	Say No To Crime
Family	Self Control
Felony Card	Self Motivation
Focus	Self Reliant
Food Stamps	Self Worth
Forgiveness	Social Security Number
Forms	Study
Furniture	Support
GED	Trade
Good Friends	Training
Healthy	Transportation
Honesty	Trustworthiness
Housing	Well Groomed